

**Drought
Incident Annex X
Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan**

LEAD AGENCY: Department of Agriculture

SUPPORTING AGENCIES: Governor's Office, Local Affairs, Military and Veteran Affairs, Natural Resources, Public Health and Environment, Office of Economic Development and International Trade, Office of State Planning and Budgeting, State Forest Service, Red Cross, Salvation Army, and the Private Sector.

I. PURPOSE

This incident annex has been prepared to facilitate a coordinated response and assign responsibilities by state agencies to requests from local jurisdictions to reduce potential loss of life and to quickly restore essential services following an extended period of drought.

II. POLICIES

Following the issuance of a local emergency declaration, the Governor may issue a state declaration, which may make response and recovery funding available as well as other state resources.

III. SITUATION

Drought is an ambiguous hazard that defies a universal definition. Typically, drought is a shortage of water associated with a deficiency of precipitation. However, humans can also induce water shortages. Drought occurs when a normal amount of moisture is not available to satisfy an area's usual water-consuming activities.

III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan (updated 2002), which is part of the Colorado Mitigation Plan.
- B. State action is taken when local government capabilities cannot cope with existing or growing needs from drought impacts. Response consists of any action taken to solve a given drought problem, from media announcements to funding or reallocation of resources.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A. State action is taken when local government capabilities cannot cope with existing or growing needs from drought impacts. Response consists of any action taken to solve a given drought problem, from media announcements to funding or reallocation of resources.
- B. If drought conditions worsen, agencies become overburdened, and emergency conditions threaten, an Interagency Coordinating Group (ICG)

may be activated by proclamation of the Governor upon recommendation by the Review and Reporting Task Force (R&RTF), identified in the Colorado Drought Mitigation and Response Plan.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. Governor's Office:

1. Through the Water Availability Task Force monitors drought conditions.
2. Following the state disaster statutes, make monies available through the state disaster fund or other funds to provide for basic recovery of essential services.
3. Designates a State Drought Coordinator and identifies an Interagency Coordinating Group
4. Request a Small Business Administration declaration.
5. Activate the Colorado State Emergency Operations Plan.

B. Interagency Coordinating Group

1. Review impact task force statements of unmet needs to recognize and identify alternate choices for response.
2. Develop, coordinate, and recommend solutions to impact problems involving:
 - a. State legislative actions, to include requests for funding.
 - b. Program implementation, monitoring and approval.
 - c. Ensure interagency coordination (e.g. media releases). Determine when drought intensity has receded to the point that there is no longer a need for the ICG to function.

B. Department of Agriculture

Promotion of water conservation practices

C. Department of Local Affairs

1. Monitor municipal water / sewer systems for operational capabilities
2. Promotion of water conservation practices for municipal systems

D. Department of Military and Veteran Affairs

When necessary provide, resource support

E. Department of Natural Resources

1. Monitor wildlife activities
2. Identify water shortages and provide resource allocation alternatives
3. Overall promotion of water conservation practices
4. Assist in the response coordination, retardation of soil loss, erosion, etc

- F. Department of Public Health and Environment
Monitor public health issues that may arise
- G. Division of Emergency Management
Provide assessment and emergency response coordination
- H. Office of State Planning and Budgeting
Determine economic losses, actual and projected
- I. Office of Energy Management and Conservation
Identify possible energy shortages / disruptions
- J. Office of Economic Development and International Trade
Determine drought conditions would have upon tourism
- K. State Forest Service
Monitor wildfire protection activities
- L. Other State Agencies
Provide support as requested by the Division of Emergency Management.

VI. ESFs likely to be involved in a drought emergency are: 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15 -- agency involvement will vary with the circumstances of each incident.